

Thu Aug 06 16:33:04 EDT 2015
Yuhas.Darlene@epamail.epa.gov
FW: Water Resources Again Threatened by City of Benson, AZ - EPA objected in 2004
To: CMS.OEX@epamail.epa.gov; Gaines.Cynthia@epamail.epa.gov

From: Sharon Rock [mailto:**Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy**]
Sent: Thursday, August 06, 2015 4:14 PM
To: Mccarthy, Gina
Cc: SHOJI, KERRY; COHEN, Deborra
Subject: Water Resources Again Threatened by City of Benson, AZ - EPA objected in 2004

Dear Ms. McCarthy -

We in Cochise County, AZ need your immediate help. The City of Benson AZ, (pop. 5000) is swiftly moving forward with an immense development that anticipates moving 70,000 people to the San Pedro River valley in Benson over the next 20 years. When cities across the American southwest and Pacific west are teetering on a national emergency with regard to water, and irreparable damage to an environmentally-sensitive and essential waterway is at stake (the San Pedro River), this use of resources is unconscionable. Please help halt this grossly irresponsible use of water resources.

The proposed Villages at Vigneto development has raised grave concerns from local area residents and scientists. Developer, El Dorado, promises to access water from the deepest of natural aquifers, however one of the main concerns is this significant projected increase in ground water usage would contribute to potable ground water depletion and could ultimately reduce surface water flows in the San Pedro River putting the region’s birds, biodiversity, downstream water users, and economy in peril.

It's a known fact that ground water and surface water are integrally connected. The Army Corps of Engineers (in LA and Phoenix) is currently reviewing the section 404 permit. But the permit is the last detail restraining the City of Benson and developer, El Dorado. In 2004, the EPA officially objected to the Army Corps of Engineers issuance of the 404 permit for this property “...because the authorization may result in substantial and unacceptable impacts to aquatic resources of national importance.” I entreat you to block this heedless development.

I have sent a version of this email to the San Francisco EPA office as Arizona appears to be under its jurisdiction. *Please add your position of strength to this "eleventh hour" call for help.*

Sincerely -

Sharon Rock

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